

Linda Summey Hoyle

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P.O. Box 533
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January 14, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U S Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Re: Microsoft settlement

Dear Attorney General Ashcroft:

The purpose of my letter is to voice my opinion regarding the Microsoft settlement. I believe this settlement is fair and this dispute should be resolved with no further litigation against Microsoft.

As a businessperson and former manager of a small family owned business, I strongly believe in free enterprise. I don't believe in punishing Microsoft for being innovative and successful. I cut my teeth with the user-friendly Apple computers but gave up on them years ago because they were not compatible with the rest of the computer world. They made their choice and in my opinion it worked against them. No one should be penalized if they have played by the rules. In my opinion Microsoft has been good to all of us. Apparently those pushing for litigation are competing companies that are trying to do the same thing that Microsoft is doing, be successful. They could probably do just that if they would get on with "their" business.

I understand that Microsoft has agreed to all terms of the settlement and has pledged to share more information with other companies to create more opportunities for them. It is my understanding that Microsoft has also agreed to not retaliate against software or hardware developers who develop or promote software that competes or runs on software that competes with Windows.

This settlement will benefit all of us. Lets move forward and help to get our economy on the road to recovery.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this settlement.

Sincerely,


Linda Summey Hoyle